(i) Electricity includes all subsidies to agriculture sector of all electricity Boards and corporations except DESU. (economic Survey)

(ii) The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy (CSO).

(iii) The subsidies for production and distribution of improved seeds minikits, machine tools, tractors, drip irrigation, plant protection measures, oil and water conservation, demonstration and training programmes are also being provided to the farmers.

(iv) All these subsidies are being continued during the 9th Plan which is yet to be finalised.

Cotton Crisis in Andhra Pradesh

1686. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton crisis in Andhra Pradesh is the result of a national seed policy which encouraged privatisation of the seed sector; and

(b) the result of the case study of farmers who committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No report relating to case study has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that the suicidal deaths were due to indebtedness on account of crop failure resulting from adverse seasonal conditions.

Encouragement of Floriculture

1687. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging floriculture all over the country;

(b) what are the incentives available to improve the floriculture sector;

(c) whether any areas have been selected in Andhra Pradesh to develop floriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Commercial Floriculture throughout the country, under which financial assistance of Rs. 60,000/- per ha. is being provided. Eleven Model Floriculture Centres in public sector are being set up for supply of elite planting material and training of the farmers. The National Horticulture Board provides assistance through the following two schemes to promote floriculture (i) Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticulture Crops (ii) Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through participation in Soft Loan.

Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce also implements various schemes for encouraging floriculture export.

(c) and (d) Areas in and around Hyderabad have been selected as potential areas for flower production. A Model Floriculture Centre is also being set up near Hyderabad under Central Assistance.